

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1
Ag 84 Pro
C2

1 Ag 84 Pro C2 Making a Difference in International Forestry Development

The Forestry Support Program



The Forestry Support Program

The Forestry Support Program provides technical assistance in forestry and natural resources to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the U.S. Peace Corps. The goals of the Forestry Support Program (FSP) are to reduce forest and related natural resource deterioration threatening the resource base of the rural poor and to increase sustainable use of forest resources around the world.



1

P. Durst



2

S. Pandey

1. Slash-and-burn clearing of tropical forests. 2. Deterioration of soil resources in Nepal.

Confronting a Global Challenge

The removal of tropical forests is occurring at unprecedented rates throughout the world. Aggregate forest area in developing countries alone is estimated to have declined by half during this century and continues to decline at an annual rate of approximately 17 million hectares (about 43 million acres)—roughly the size of the State of Washington or about the size of Nicaragua and Costa Rica combined. Forest loss stems from many causes such as conversion of land for agriculture and grazing, collection of fuelwood and fodder, and demand for industrial forest products. This loss threatens the stability of fragile ecosystems around the world.



3



5

K. Hunter



6

S. Pandey



4

T. Resch

During the last decade, there has been increased awareness of the many diverse roles that forests play in meeting the basic needs of the world's rural poor. Local communities derive a broad range of benefits from trees. These include fuelwood, fodder, fruits, nuts, fibers, traditional medicines, oils, gums, and other edible and saleable products. Trees provide shelter and shade. They also reduce effects of soil erosion and help sustain soil fertility and water quality. Protected ecosystems and wildlife habitat are often a source of income for local communities. A variety of social, economic, and natural resource problems are thus inextricably linked to deforestation and environmental degradation.



T. Resch



T. Resch

3. Food aid-supported forestry programs. 4. Sawmill in The Gambia. 5. Deforestation threatens the extinction of many animal species. 6. Women in Nepal play an important role in natural resource management. 7. Selecting eucalyptus housing material in Morocco. 8. Roadside firewood market in Senegal.

Making a Difference

Leaders of developing countries increasingly recognize that their present and future economic well-being is severely threatened if a sound and sustainable natural resource base is not maintained. Many countries are encouraging natural resource and environmental development programs and are working closely with the United States in these efforts.

Agency for International Development—Taking a Leadership Role

The U.S. Congress authorized USAID, through amendments to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, to increase its bilateral development assistance dealing with deple-



S. Kunkle



T. Resch

tion of forests and associated soil and water resources. With this mandate, USAID has taken a leadership role in supporting developing countries as they strive to cope with their varied natural resource problems.

In the early 1990's, USAID supported over 170 tropical forestry projects, through annual expenditures of nearly \$130 million, in some 50 developing countries in Africa, Asia and the Near East, and Latin America and the Caribbean. With growing national and international concern and explicit mandates from the U.S. Congress through foreign assistance legislation, it is anticipated USAID will continue to exercise its leadership role through its development assistance and food aid-supported projects.



11

R. Calnan



13

T. Geary



12

G. Wetterberg

9. Fodder collection in Nepal. 10. Forestry crew in Morocco.

11. Local timber harvesting in Nepal. 12. Peace Corps forestry training workshop in Botswana. 13. Tree improvement research.

Forestry Support Program—Focusing U.S. Forestry Assistance

In recognition of the urgent need to enhance the role and success of forestry development and to fulfill a variety of associated objectives, in 1981, USAID formed what is now the Office of Environment and Natural Resources, within the Bureau for Research and Development.

To enhance USAID's capabilities to design, implement, and evaluate forestry projects, FSP, a unit of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service, International Forestry, was established in 1981. FSP is jointly managed by the USDA Forest Service and the Office of International Cooperation and Development with funds provided through USAID's Forest Resources Management Project. Almost \$20 million was appropriated for this project over the first decade, with \$45 million anticipated through the next.

The Forestry Support Program's Role

The Forestry Support Program carries out its role in forestry and natural resource development through a number of specific support activities:

- **Technical consultations**—To provide USAID's regional bureaus, regional offices, and field missions with technical advice and project design assistance in the areas of tropical forestry, biological diversity, conservation, and natural resources.
- **Roster development and referrals**—To develop and manage a roster of forestry and natural resource experts identifying qualified individuals for long-term and short-term USAID or cooperative USAID-Peace Corps assignments overseas.
- **Forestry program studies and technical reference services**—To provide technical forestry information to USAID and Peace Corps staffs and to facilitate the exchange of technical information among natural resource project personnel.
- **Forestry training**—To organize forestry training courses, develop training materials, provide advice to forestry schools and other organizations on curriculum design, assist USAID in designing training components for forestry projects, and provide a communications link between USAID and educational institutions in the United States.
- **Research support**—To provide USAID with technical support in forestry research.
- **Forestry Private Enterprise Initiative**—To stimulate forest-based enterprise by focusing on potential market enhancement, strengthening private institutions,

expanding related income and employment opportunities, encouraging policy dialogue, and executing related research.

- **Forestry-agriculture linkages**—To provide technical support for the design and implementation of agroforestry projects and workshops.
- **Forestry and voluntary assistance activities**—To provide technical forestry support to private voluntary organizations and nongovernmental organizations, including those that integrate food aid into their forestry programs.
- **Social forestry**—To identify, design, monitor, and evaluate the social science aspects of USAID's forestry and natural resource projects.



14

P. Durst



15

T. Resch



16

G. Wetterberg



17

T. Resch

Staff Resources

The Washington, DC-based professional staff of FSP has extensive foreign and domestic experience in the following areas:

Agroforestry	Park planning and nature tourism
Arid and semiarid forestry	Project design, implementation, and evaluation
Biological diversity	Reforestation
Biomass energy	Silviculture
Communication and extension	Social and community forestry
Economics and policy	Training and education
Environmental analysis	Tree improvement
Forest management	Women in development
Forest products	
Forestry research	

The Forestry Support Program will continue to evolve and diversify its support services to help fulfill the goals of USAID as it responds to worldwide forestry and natural resource needs.



18

Academy for Educational Development



19

P. Durst

14. Training young elephant for logging in Thailand. 15. Eucalyptus plantation in Morocco. 16. Encouraging national park establishment in tropical forests. 17. Tree nursery preparation in Africa. 18. Tree planting in Peru. 19. Preserving biological diversity.

A Mandate from the U.S. Congress

The Congress recognizes in its amendments to the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 that the continuing and accelerating loss of tropical forests poses a serious threat to developing countries and worldwide environmental stability.

In providing assistance to developing countries under the authority of this Act, the President places a high priority on conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests. Emphasis is placed on conservation of biological diversity and forest watersheds, training and education, reforestation, and community forestry. Projects in these fields are accomplished, whenever feasible, through management by nongovernmental agencies and private and voluntary organizations.

Information

To learn more about the Forestry Support Program roster and FSP assistance, write to the following address:

Forestry Support Program
International Forestry
USDA Forest Service
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090
Telex number: 7409010 IFFSP



The Forestry Support Program is managed jointly by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and Office of International Cooperation and Development, with funds provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development, Bureau for Research and Development, through its Office of Environment and Natural Resources.

Persons of any race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, or with any handicapping condition are welcome to use and enjoy all facilities, programs, and services of the USDA. Discrimination in any form is strictly against agency policy and should be reported to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250.

United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

October 1988

PA-1422

Slightly Revised September 1992

